We claim:

1. A purified and isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, a sequence which is complementary to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, a sequence given in SEQ ID NO:3, or a sequence which is complementary to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO:3.

2. The nucleic acid described in claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is an RNA.

3. The nucleic acid described in claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is a cDNA.

4. A purified and isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence that is a fragment of the sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, the sequence which is complementary to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, the sequence given in SEQ ID NO:3, or the sequence which is complementary to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the fragment hybridizes specifically with the sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, the sequence which is complementary to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, the sequence given in SEQ ID NO:3, or the sequence which is complementary to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO:3.

5. The nucleic acid described in claim 4, wherein the nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, and SEQ ID NO:12.

6. A polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid comprising the sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1 or the sequence given in SEQ ID NO:3.

7. The polypeptide described in claim 6, wherein the polypeptide is a recombinantly produced polypeptide.

8. An antibody that binds immunospecifically with a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid comprising a sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1 or a sequence given in SEQ ID NO:3.

9. A method of detecting precancerous cells or cancer cells in the prostate of a subject, said method comprising providing a sample of tissue or fluid from the subject and determining whether the sample contains an abnormally high content of a nucleic acid comprising a sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, a sequence which is complementary to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1, a sequence given in SEQ ID NO:3, a sequence which is complementary to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO:3, or a fragment of any of the sequences, whereby determining that the sample contains an abnormally high content of the nucleic acid indicates that the subject has precancerous cells or cancer cells in the prostate.

10. The method described in claim 9, wherein the sample is a body fluid.

11. The method described in claim 9, wherein the sample is tissue originating from the prostate.

12. The method described in claim 9, wherein the determining step comprises amplifying the nucleic acid and detecting the amplified nucleic acid.

13. A method of detecting precancerous cells or cancer cells in the prostate of a subject, said method comprising providing a sample of tissue or fluid from the subject and determining whether the sample contains an abnormally high content of a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid comprising a sequence given in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3, whereby determining that the sample contains an abnormally high content of the polypeptide indicates that the subject has precancerous cells or cancer cells in the prostate.

14. The method described in claim 13, wherein the sample is a body fluid.

15. The method described in claim 13, wherein the sample is tissue originating from the prostate.

16. The method described in claim 13, wherein the determining step further comprises contacting at least a portion of the sample with an antibody that binds immunospecifically with the polypeptide and determining the amount of the antibody that has bound with the polypeptide present in the sample.